

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 22 NOV 49

SUBJECT Slovak Branch of the Czechoslovak Construction Works: Current Projects

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF INFO [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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between Eastern Slovakia priority in the plans of National Corporation (Cepodnik). The construction station at Cierna near C line between Czechoslovak the motor road connecting (R49/E 74), Sobrance (R49/E 74), and Uzhorod (R49/A 02) are two examples of this project.

2. The contract for the freight station at Cierna near Cop was let to the construction industry was completed by the Czechoslovak private firm, and was as a top priority. Ing. Bohda, a Communist, is chief engineer of the project.

3. Rebuilding and enlarging Sobrance, and Uzhorod was done by the bridge section of the Kosice branch of the Czechoslovak Construction Works. This road, the only one from Slovakia enlarged to a width of 12 meters. The bulk of the work in the vicinity of Michalovce has been employed.

4. Another high priority project is the construction of an airfield near Kosice. Ordered by the Ministry of National Defense, this field will be the third to be located at Kosice. Two others, one civil, and one military, are operating. Begun in 1947, its construction was taken over in 1948 by the Czechoslovak Construction Works which had between four and six hundred men on this job. Sour fuel has occasionally been used.

Soviet Union have received top priority in the plans of Czechoslovak Construction Works, the stavebni zavody, narodni zavody, eight yard and railroad station (R49/E 90) on the only direct rail line between Czechoslovakia and Russia, and the widening of (R49/E 34), Michalovce and Uzhorod (R49/A 02) are two examples of this project.

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-2-

25X1A

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5. The completion of an iron ~~works~~, on which construction was stopped in 1938, is another project which has been given a high priority. Located at Krompachy (R49/E 06) near Kosice, the construction of the Viliam Siroky Iron Works is under the supervision of Ing. fnu Cermak. His assistant is Karel Holy. Construction is being rushed and workers have been recruited from all parts of Slovakia. Iron ore mines are located nearby.
6. Two dams of unreported capacities are being built by the Construction Works in Slovakia, one on the Orava River near Dolny Kubin (Q50/X 91), and the other on the Ondava River at Vyssi Svidnik (R50/Z 50) near the Polish-Czechoslovak border. Water stored by the latter dam is expected to inundate the village of Vyssi Svidnik. A lack of good roads in this area has hindered the ~~delivery~~ of materials and has necessitated the macadamizing of the road between Giraltovece and Vyssi Svidnik. The work on the Orava dam was formerly supervised by fnu Pekny, who was arrested for sabotage in January 1949.
7. Other current projects of the Construction Works are:
 - a. Enlargement of the magnesium factory at Kosice.
 - b. Construction of new factories, including a new Krivan-CKD plant, at Kosice for the Metallurgical and Mechanical Engineering Plants (KOVO - Ceskoslovenske zavody kovodelne a strojirenske).
 - c. Construction of a new building in Kosice for the Drevokombinat, which is a branch of the Czechoslovak Wood Works.
8. Total cost of all projects under construction, including those planned for 1949, is to be one milliard Kcs.
9. The Czechoslovak Construction Works, National Corporation, was activated on 1 September 1948 as a combination of all the building and construction firms previously nationalized on 23 January 1948. Headquarters for Slovakia are in Bratislava (P49/X 99). Other regional branches in Slovakia are located in Nitra (P49/T 62), Banska Bystrica (Q49/C 76), Zilina (Q50/O 92), Ruzomberok (Q50/C 99), Presov (R49/E 37), and Kosice.
10. The Slovak branch of the Czechoslovak Construction Works is divided into three departments and two sections which, listed with their chiefs, are:
 - a. Department I: Industrial projects - Chief Ing. fnu Tomanek.
 - b. Department II: Water projects, roads etc. - Chief Ing. fnu Goth.
 - c. Department III: Construction of houses - Chief Ing. fnu Osvaldik.
 - d. Materials Section - Chief Ing. fnu Rodak.
 - e. Planning Section - Chief Ing. fnu Gereb, non-Communist. Assistants: Ing. fnu Hudak, a Communist of Hungarian parentage, and fnu Zahodrocky.

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Auth.	HR 702
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-8-

25X1A

11. All construction materials needed by the Construction Works are allocated to it by the Commissariat of Industry located in Bratislava. In June 1949 practically all construction materials, with the exception of lime and cement, were in short supply. The following is a resume of the availability of materials:
- a. Enough cement and lime is available to supply all projects. Factories supplying cement and lime are located in Lietavska Lucka (Q50/O 92), Ladce (unlocated), Hornie Srnie (P49/T 59), and Stupava (P49/S 80) near Bratislava.
 - b. The main brick factory at Pezinok (P49/T 00) cannot supply enough bricks for all the planned projects and as a result the Construction Works is supplied by small field brick works where all work is done by hand.
 - c. Wood is the greatest bottleneck in the building industry because it is hard to get laborers to work in the forests at the prevailing low wages.
 - d. Iron and steel products are in short supply. The iron works in Podbrezova (Q49/D 06) and the Coburg works in Trnava (P49/T 22) supply the Slovak construction industry.
12. Plans for Military projects are given to the Construction Works by the Ministry of National Defense. These plans are not submitted in their entirety, but are given to the Construction Works as they are needed. When one phase of construction is completed, plans for the second stage are handed over.

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